
Product Bulletin

Reference PS-ImCalP	April 1997	FastFacts # 5546
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Gerber ImageCal™ “P” Permanent Clear Vinyl

DESCRIPTION

Gerber ImageCal “P” (non-removable) is a 3.5 mil, durable, clear, calendared vinyl designed for use with Gerber Digital Color Printing Systems and GerberColor™ foils.

INTENDED APPLICATIONS

Gerber ImageCal “P” (non-removable) is ideally suited for interior and short-term exterior emblems, signs, second-surface applications, point of purchase, and window displays. The user should determine the suitability of all substrates prior to actual application.

This film is not recommended for use on corrugated or highly irregular surfaces. It is also not intended for applications where petrochemical contact may occur. If petrochemical exposure is anticipated, refer to the section below on protecting graphics.

APPLICATION TECHNIQUES

Wet or dry application methods can be used with Gerber ImageCal “P” (non-removable) and panels should be overlapped.

Gerber standard tack application tape is required for all graphics produced with Gerber Digital Color Printing System.

SUBSTRATE PREPARATION

Before applying your graphic, wash the surface of your substrate with warm water and detergent. Do not use soaps or other cleaners with lotions or creams as they will leave a residue. Thoroughly rinse the surface and allow it to completely dry.

Saturate a clean paper towel with a solvent-based cleaner and wipe the substrate surface. Be certain to follow all manufacturer safety guidelines when using any solvent. Dry the surface with a lint-free paper towel before the solvent evaporates.

If applying to glass, solvent wipe the surface with a 2 to 1 mixture of water and isopropyl alcohol. Glass temperatures can vary across the surface. These temperature variations can produce stresses which may cause the glass to break. Use caution when applying to glass.

Some polycarbonate substrates may weaken when certain vinyl films are applied to them. Because of this possibility, the user will need to determine if safety items such as helmets, safety shields, and some windshields are compatible with their vinyl's adhesive.

Many paint systems (e.g. two-part urethane) and some polycarbonate substrates will outgas if they are not fully cured. Outgassing can cause permanent bubbling in most films; substrates should be tested for outgassing prior to final application.

PERFORMANCE LIFE (UNPRINTED)

Gerber ImageCal “P” (non-removable) has a performance life of two years when applied vertically.

Performance statements are based upon field experience and exposure tests conducted throughout the United States. Substrate selection, exposure angle, environmental conditions, and maintenance of markings will affect actual performance. Continuous exposure in regions that experience maximum sunny days will result in decreased performance. This product is not recommended for horizontal applications.

PRINTING

If your software material selection palette does not have Gerber ImageCal “P” (non-removable), use Scotchcal™ 220 normal print settings.

GerberColor Spot (GCS) Series, GerberColor Process (GCP) SUPER CMYK™ Series, GerberColor Medal (GCM) Series and GerberColor Transparent (GCT) Series Foils can be used to print onto ImageCal “P”.

CUTTING

Gerber ImageCal “P” (non-removable) can be cut on any 15” GRAPHIX ADVANTAGE® compatible plotter. A 30° SuperSharp blade is recommended. Plotters can be set to full speed.

The user should perform a test cut to determine the ideal tool force setting.

PROTECTING GRAPHICS

Gerber Scientific Products, Inc. offers two products that are designed to protect vinyl and printed graphics.

Gerber Guard™ is a durable, dimensionally stable, glossy vinyl overlamine. This film has a petrochemical-resistant construction and is intended to be used when markings may be exposed to petrochemical spillage and/or severe handling conditions.

Abrasion Guard™ is a clear, top-coat GerberColor Foil designed to protect graphics from moderate contact or handling.

SHELF LIFE AND STORAGE

Apply film within one year of receipt. Printed graphics should also be applied within one year. Film and printed graphics (with or without premask) should be kept in a clean area free from excessive moisture and direct sunlight. Maintain temperature at less than 70°F (21°C) and 50% relative humidity.

Use a paper interleaf between layers of stacked or rolled printed materials. Do not stack printed graphics face to face.

MAINTENANCE

To clean printed graphics, use a mild, non-abrasive soap with a soft cloth or sponge. Avoid using alcohol-based cleansers or soaps containing grit or abrasives.

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

Thickness	4.5 mil (with adhesive)
Film Color	Clear

Adhesive	PSA, Permanent
Adhesive Color	Clear
Liner	Lay-flat
Dimensional Stability	Fair
Minimum Application Temp	50°F (10°C)
Operating Temperature	-40°F to 176°F (-40°C to 80°C)

RELATED LITERATURE

GerberColor Spot (GCS) Series, GerberColor Process (GCP) SUPER CMYK Series, GerberColor Medal (GCM) Series, GerberColor Transparent (GCT) Series, Gerber Guard, and Abrasion Guard (GerberColor Finishing GCF) Product Bulletins.

For help with questions concerning Gerber products, please call your distributor or Gerber Customer Service at 1-800-222-7446 or (860)643-1515.

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